

ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
VESTRY MEETING MINUTES
December 19, 2019

Present: Senior Warden-Murry Edwards, Junior Warden-Paul Westrom, Treasurer-Chris Bartlett, Clerk-Mattie Gustafson, David Brierley, Dave Ferkinhoff, Chris Winslow, Julie Zecher, Trish Culver, David Spengler, Peter Collins and the Rector- the Rev. Jennifer Pedrick. Also present was the Rev. Canon Dena Cleaver-Bartholomew, Canon to the Ordinary.

Absent: Michelle Freitas.

Murry opened the meeting at 6:02 p.m. by reading "The End of the Year," a poem from *Bless the Space Between Us*.

The Vestry reviewed our Mission, Ministry Priorities and Leadership Goals.

Congregational Development

Celebrations and Accomplishments for 2019

The Vestry began by making a list of (almost) all the accomplishments and good things that had happened throughout the year. (This list is attached and also on Basecamp.)

Canon Dena suggested we find ways to celebrate these accomplishments and hold up the people that made these accomplishments possible. She also suggested we write up our experiences with *Invite, Welcome, Connect* for the Diocesan eNews, as it is good for other parishes to see how one church succeeded.

Vestry homework for next month is to begin to identify gaps and new goals and priorities for 2020. Jennifer mentioned attracting more children and families as an area of concern. A list will be started on Basecamp – Vestry members were encouraged to add to it.

Additional Business

Stewardship – David B.

116 pledges are in thus far, for a total of \$255,000 (in even numbers), which represents a 9% increase over last year. The average parish pledge increased from \$2075 last year, to and \$2200 for this year.

The average Vestry pledge is \$5200. This represents a 19% increase over last year.

There are 19 more pledges (of folks who pledged last year) still due.
We have 13 brand new pledges. All of this will be finalized by the Annual Meeting.

David B. and his Stewardship Commission were congratulated for their great work.

Property and Deferred Maintenance – Paul W.

Oliphant Lane is sold!

Paul had previously submitted a list of 5 deferred maintenance projects that require attention. Paul said preserving the exterior of the Parish House could be pushed off to next year (but no later). That leaves 4 items that NEED to be done. Paul W. moved that the Vestry authorize spending roughly \$60,000 in the year 2020 to

1. Reside portions of the Gibbs House and repaint
2. Repair the Parish House steps and wall
3. Remove dead and/or potentially damaging trees
4. Replace the roof of the Gibbs House.

Chris W. seconded the motion. After a brief discussion, the motion was passed unanimously.

2020 Budget – Chris B.

Chris B. passed out the proposed Budget for 2020, with a motion to accept the budget as presented. Paul W. seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Housing Allowance – Murry

Murry made the following motion –

"Whereas, Internal Revenue Code Section 107, as well as the associated Regulation and Revenue Rulings, provide that the portion of a minister's remuneration, designated as a rental/housing allowance by the employing church or other qualifying organization, is excludable from the minister's gross income under Section 107 of the Code;

and Whereas, St. Mary's Episcopal Church of Portsmouth is a qualifying organization,

Now, Therefore, be it Resolved that a portion of the compensation paid the Reverend Jennifer Pedrick during 2020 is designated as a rental/housing allowance in accordance with the provisions of Section 107 of the Internal Revenue Code as follows:

Fair Rental Value of Church provided parsonage	\$22,200
Utilities and related costs paid by St. Mary's	<u>\$8,000</u>
Total 2020 Designated Housing Allowance	\$30,200

The motion was seconded by Dave S. The motion passed.

Consent Agenda

Paul W. made a motion, seconded by Dave F., that the Consent Agenda, consisting of the minutes from the November Vestry meeting and the Treasurer's Report, be accepted. The motion passed.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m. Canon Dena led us in Compline

Respectfully submitted,
Mattie Gustafson, Clerk